

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 NEA-10 OMB-01 /076 W

----- 117940

R 300650Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8410

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINCEUR

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

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CINCEUR, CINCLANT, CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, MZ, TZ, MILI

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE NAVAL VISIT

1. HAD IT HAPPENED A YEAR AGO, WAR DRUMS WOULD BE BEATING ALL OVER TANZANIA. THINGS HAVE CHANGED, BUT WE STILL HAD TO RUB OUR EYES BEFORE WE COULD BELIEVE WHAT WE SAW: FOUR WAR-SHIPS OF THE PORTUGUESE NAVY STEAMING PROUDLY INTO DAR ES SALAAM HARBOR, FLAGS FLYING. THEY ARRIVED MAY 29, BERTHED, AND TURNED THEIR CREWS LOOSE ON SHORE LEAVE.

2. SHIPS ARE: FRIGATE COMANDANTE HERMENEGILDO CAPELO (F-481), FRIGATE GENERAL PEREIRA D'ECA (F-477), FRIGATE (NAME UNKNOWN)
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BUT SISTER SHIP TO LAST) (F-473), OILER SAN BRAS (A-523).

FRIGATES ARRIVED MORE OR LESS TOGETHER, THE SAN BRAS A BIT LATER. (MIRACLE IS THAT SAN BRAS GOT HERE AT ALL; FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS IT HAS BEEN TIED UP IN LOURENCO MARQUES, AND EFFORTS TO GET IT TO SEA FURTHER THAN INHACA ISLAND IN DELAGOA BAY WERE ALL REPORTEDLY UNSUCCESSFUL.)

3. WHAT SHIPS ARE DOING HERE WE DO NOT YET KNOW; THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLICITY GIVEN THEIR ARRIVAL. PERHAPS THEY ARE TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE MOZAMBIQUE NAVY.

4. COMMENT: WE CANNOT HELP BUT SPECULATE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS VISIT. DOES TANZANIA RECOGNIZE PORTUGAL AS A LITTORAL STATE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN (ITS PRSUMED CRITERION FOR ALLOWING NAVAL VISITS)? WHATEVER THE CASE, THIS NEW AND DARING EXPLOIT IN THE LONG ANNALS OF PORTUGUESE MARITIME ADVENTURE DESERVES A CHRONICLER IN THE TRADITION OF CAMOES. SO FAR, IT HASN'T EVEN MADE THE TANZANIA DAILY NEWS. CARTER

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